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Kramer Prepares Avila for Future

by Pat Pruitt

A few minutes with Dr. Kramer reveals that he has indeed become a part of the Avila family.

His warm, friendly nature is evidenced in the open door policy that he established when he came to Avila last October. Although an apartment was made available for him, since his family was remaining in Dodge City for several months, Dr. Kramer chose to live in the residence hall. "I felt I could use that as an opportunity to get to know people," Dr. Kramer said.

Before moving into the residence hall, Dr. Kramer had asked Dean Lease to check with the residence hall staff for their permission. Their response was, "Ok, but we won't change our style of living."

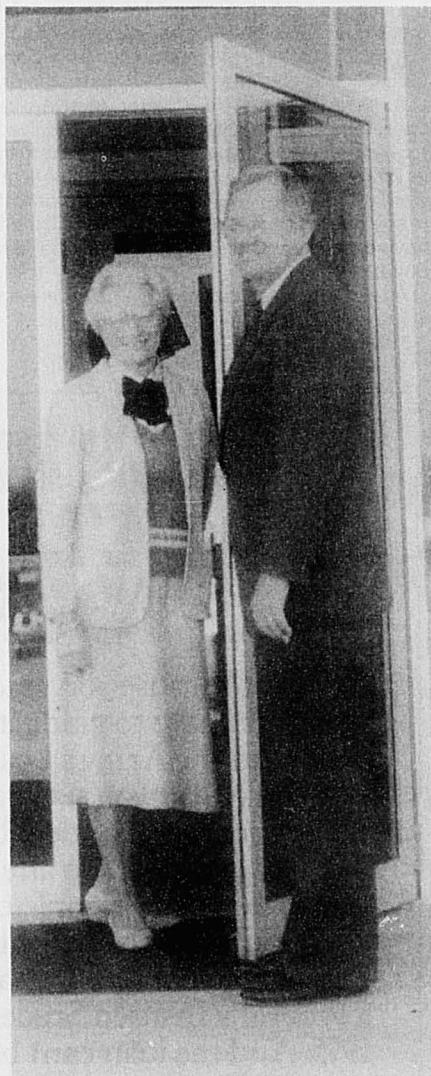
During this time, Dr. Kramer ate most of his meals in the school cafeteria with the other students. "It helped me establish an open door policy with the students by talking in a common, neutral area."

The open door policy established for students is also present for faculty members and staff. This was especially evident in the recent budget proposal. When the proposed budget cuts were presented to the division chairpersons, they were given an opportunity to appeal the cuts for their divisions.

Dr. Kramer admits to spending sleepless nights worrying over the new budget. While he is aware of the need for more rigorous financial planning and budgeting, he is also aware that the academic quality of Avila must not be affected by the budget constraints. "We must always be aware of strengthening the total institution," Dr. Kramer said. He added that the recent budget proposal is only the first step in a long range planning process he has begun for the college. "By using long range planning, we are preparing for the future. We must be in touch with what the future is," Dr. Kramer said. He added that long range planning is a continual process where "...we will assess yearly what we have accomplished through that plan and add another year of goals for five years down the road." Dr. Kramer said that the planning is being accomplished with the assistance of consultants provided by John McKelvey, who is president of Midwest Research Institute and a member of Avila's board of directors. "They are helping us develop the proper type of instrument, one that can also be used for next year's North Central evaluation," Dr. Kramer said.

One of the items Dr. Kramer hopes to include in his long range plan is to increase the number of resident students on campus, adding that resident students are necessary for an active campus life. He plans to accomplish this, however, without de-emphasizing the commuter, non-traditional or evening

Six Months Later ...



students needs.

While Dr. Kramer has been busy preparing the budget proposal, his family has been adapting to life in Kansas City. "We lived in Kansas City three years ago and maintained friendships after we moved to Fort Dodge, so the adjustment hasn't been as hard as it might have been," Dr. Kramer said. He added that he has been taking time with his family to attend some activities such as the K.U. basketball games and the Cosby show. They are also looking forward to attending Royals' games.

Whether performing administrative functions or visiting with students, Dr. Kramer shows a genuine concern that makes him a welcome addition to Avila's family.

Sr. Olive Louise Focuses on Financial Support

by Rebecca J. Cisek

A sense of relief and relaxation characterize Vice-President of Development Sr. Olive Louise Dallavis' attitude toward her new career of raising funds for Avila College. "I am happy to be relieved of the burden of making decisions that affect the college," Sr. Olive Louise said regarding her previous position as President of Avila. Her responsibilities now encompass securing funds "to supplement what the tuition dollar doesn't cover."

Sr. Olive Louise presently concentrates on "seeking out new donors and cultivating previous donors [by] creating an awareness of Avila's mission in higher education." Sr. Olive defines this vital mission as "creating graduates who are sensitive to and aware of their responsibilities as educated citizens in a democracy."

Making potential donors responsive to Avila's mission now requires four-fifths of Sr. Olive's time in comparison to having spent three-fifths of her time in fund raising as president. She also recognizes the importance of her role as a "representative of Avila College" and likens herself to a salesperson who must be convinced of the quality of the goods she is marketing. Her success in fund raising also comes from her many contacts in Kansas City -- "My friends are Avila's friends" -- and her persistence. "It may be 'no' for now, but there's tomorrow."

Sister Olive is proud to be associated with Avila. Her opinion of Dr. Larry Kramer, as her successor, is very high and she characterizes him as a leader who brings "out of people the best." She is also quick to praise his financial wisdom and ability to make decisions.

Sr. Olive Louise Dallavis seems content in her new position, is definitely well-suited for it, and is as eager and dedicated as ever to fulfilling Avila's mission.

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avila COLLEGE

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Commencement Activities

On May 10 approximately 200 Avila students will march into Mabee Fieldhouse as the Avila Class of 1986. It's a day they have long awaited; it's a day they will never forget.

The graduation ceremonies will begin with a Mass at 4 p.m. and the graduation march scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. There will be a break between the mass and graduation ceremony.

Mistress of ceremonies for graduation will be Mary Helen VanDyke, a longtime friend of Avila and past recipient of Honorary Doctorate. Guest speaker for the event will be Barbara Pendleton, Executive Vice President of United Missouri Bank and Co-chairman of Avila's Development Program.

An honors convocation will be held at 10:30 a.m. on May 10 to honor graduates who are receiving awards. Among the awards to be presented this year are the Avila medal, various academic fraternity awards, and the "Professor of the Year" award.

Congratulations, Avila graduates:

Social Workers Club News

The Avila Students Social Workers Club will hold a picnic on May 3 to honor graduating seniors, Rosemary Alexander, Paula Clingenpeel, Midge Cygan, Geri Hoerman and Mary Beth Shay. Because the purpose of the Social Workers Club is to understand and meet the needs and customs of others, a potluck meal featuring ethnic foods to share and sample will be served. Any students who are interested in attending the picnic but are not members of the Social Workers Club should call Ronnie Lerner, 648-4403, for more information.

Plans have also been made by the Social Workers Club to hold a garage sale in August. If anyone has any good usable items to donate, contact an officer of the club or leave a message at the Social Sciences office.

The ASSWA wishes to thank teachers and students who took surveys in classes to help with the success of the senior class project, Care in Action.

New President Inaugurated

by Candis Donell

Roll out the red carpet! Strike up the band! On Saturday, April 26, the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, alumni and Avila students came together to inaugurate Dr. Larry Kramer as president of the college. The Inauguration and Mass was held in Goppert Theatre. Later that evening, the Inaugural Ball/Spring Dance took place at the Federal Reserve Bank. Entertainment for the event was provided by a full orchestra and a pop band.

Residence Hall Staff Selected

The Office of Student Life has announced its selection for residence hall staff for the 1986-87 academic year.

Selected to return as assistant residential coordinator is Patrick Wood, a sophomore communications major. Returning resident assistants are Gary Matson, a sophomore business information science major and Linda Bleyenbergh, a senior majoring in personnel. New members of the staff include freshman Sharon O'Reilly who is majoring in nursing; Rebekkah Montes, a freshman history major; Lisa Balch, a radiology technology major in her freshman year; and Gary Mitchell, a sophomore speech/theatre major.

According to Carolyn Seiter, residential coordinator, more applications were received for resident assistant positions this year than in many past years. "Fourteen applications were received for four available positions. It really made the selection process difficult having so many fine candidates," said Ms. Seiter.

As a resident assistant each student will be

responsible for the operation of one floor in either Carondelet or Ridgway Hall. They will receive training in peer counseling, crisis intervention and program planning. Assertiveness training and communication skills will also be a part of the six-day workshop in the fall. As members of the Student Life staff, the resident assistants will undertake much responsibility in addition to their academic load. Ms. Seiter commented that the R.A. position is both a growth experience and a challenge. "The R.A.'s learn many things about themselves and other people. They will learn and adopt skills that will help them in whatever field they choose to pursue."

Residence Hall contracts for Summer 1986 and the 1986-87 academic year are available in the Student Life Office in Marian Centre. If you are considering living on campus, please stop by and pick one up. To be guaranteed a place. The contract must be signed and returned by June 1, 1986.

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Biology Department Snakes its Way Into High School

by Candis Donell



Steve Thornhill and Wyandotte High School Biology Students

Steve Thornhill, a junior biology major, took a group of amphibians to Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kansas, on April 23, by invitation of Mark Clements, a Wyandotte biology teacher.

"The program is designed to alleviate a lot of the ill feelings people have about reptiles," Mr. Thornhill said. "They're not something people need to run around and kill."

Mr. Thornhill showed the Wyandotte biology class eight different types of snakes: a King snake, Rat, Water, Gardner, and one venomous snake. He also brought with him two live turtles, and one dried turtle and two kinds of lizards.

"When we do these programs we try to get many varieties that represent the different groups of reptiles," Mr. Thornhill said.

During his program, Mr. Thornhill informed the class not only about the various kinds of amphibians, but also about their individual habitats, behaviors and feeding habits. "I learned how to handle them and how to tell if they're venomous or not," John Mansker, a Wyandotte student said.

For many of the students in the Wyandotte biology class, it was the first time they had ever viewed and handled reptiles up close. "He [Mr. Thornhill] said that snakes don't bite unless you tease them, so I wasn't afraid to touch it," Rhonda Dotson said.

The Avila Biology Department, headed by Dr. Robert Powell, takes about three trips a year to collect biology specimens. The specimens have come from Florida, Dominican Republic and local areas in Kansas and Missouri. "I mainly like to bring specimens from local areas to our programs," Mr. Thornhill said, "so that people can see those reptiles they're more likely to encounter."

My Own Perspective

by Pat Hearly

God willing and with a little good luck, I will be graduating in May with my bachelor's degree, twenty years to the month after I started. I've learned a lot of things that don't show up in a college catalog course description or on a syllabus, and I just can't leave without passing a few of them along.

"What could you possibly have to tell me?" you ask. "A woman who took twenty years to graduate!" Well, I've learned how to go to school. I first went to college for three years directly out of high school. After my junior year I quit, got married and spent several years as housewife and working woman. In 1969 it was time to quit but in 1983 it was the right time to go to school again. Working full time and taking evening and weekend classes I have almost completed the final 43 hours needed. What follows is a list I've compiled called the Six Helpful Rules of Conduct to Achieve a College Education.

Rule 1: Figure out how you learn best. By the time you start college you may have some inkling of this. I, for example, have a visual memory. I can't seem to remember anything unless I've seen it on paper. I take copious notes in class, even of material covered before in lecture, in the text, or elsewhere in my notes, because the repetitious writing helps me to remember. I've stuck notes on my purse, on the front of notebooks, and in the corner of my computer screen at work. I've posted algebraic equations, word definitions, and even typeset the second law of thermodynamics ("The

spontaneous tendency toward increasing disorder..."). Whether you work best by hearing, reading or writing the words yourself, observe how your mind works and utilize that. Of course, in order to hear or write down the most important stuff, you need to:

Go to class — Rule 2. Oh, I know. I can hear the boos and hisses already. But I have never had much patience with the habit of skipping class, mainly because it's quite difficult to make up what is missed. If the lecture follows the text material, then you learn what is important to remember for a test grade and what isn't, as it's not always clear from the book which are the main points. In class, you also get an explanation of difficult material. In addition, if lecture material doesn't follow the text then the only way to recover the material is through someone else's notes, a weak procedure at best. I propose to you my theory: the easiest way to pass any course is to go to class.

So, what if the lectures are boring, you don't understand the material, the teacher doesn't cover what you want covered? In studying communication rules about small groups I have learned that a major responsibility of a group member is to participate to achieve the goals of the group — and this applies to all members, not just the group leader. Rule 3: It is your responsibility as a member of the class group to ask for clarification when you don't understand, to participate in discussion, to ask the teacher to

continued on page 4

Perspective, continued from page 3

repeat or slow down when you can't keep up with taking notes, even to suggest related topics you would like to see covered. If you feel a course is a waste of your time, and you make no effort to get involved, the waste is your fault.

Which brings us to a closely related Rule 4: If you're having problems with a subject, see the teacher about it. A little one-to-one interaction outside of the structured class situation can do several things for you. This can especially help you see the course from the teacher's perspective, which is a real breakthrough in a course that you feel is a waste of time. While there is a great variety of teachers, we can suppose, at the very least, that your teacher values the subject he or she teaches. Better for you that your teachers know you're concerned about how well you do than to have them assume that you're another of the sleepwalkers who have blown off their subject as a mere "three-hour requirement." Also, a little personal dialogue can ease that adversarial student/instructor

relationship you may have carried over from high school. That attitude can only work against you, so get rid of it. Admittedly, I have an advantage over many of you in this respect. I am as old as, or older than, most of my teachers. (I try not to question too closely any more.) But yes, students (of any age) and teachers (of any age) can be partners in the learning experience. Do not easily accept anything less.

Now, you may say that your goal is just to get that diploma and get a good job. Well, we all use that to keep ourselves going now and then, even when we really enjoy learning. I've often heard that college is "learning how to play the game," and that's true. Rule 5: On the practical, "Graduate and Get Good Grades" level your goal is to find out what the teacher wants and give it to her or him. This is not just a crass viewpoint but is good practical training for the world of work where you may need to do the same thing. So, go to class and listen for the clues.

Finally, Rule 6: This rule may seem frivo-

lous or unimportant, but don't let that trap catch you. It is perhaps more important to your survival as a student than any of the other I've mentioned. Rule 6: Pamper yourself a little. You're at risk if: you're working and going to school; you're attending school and keeping a family going; you came uninterrupted from high school to college. Learning is hard work — don't let anyone tell you differently. I would venture to guess that burn-out (mental and emotional) is the major factor causing many students to quit. It certainly was a factor for me when I quit in 1969. So, take a day off work, take the summer away from school if you need it. Learn how to judge when a little pampering may be a necessity and not just a luxury.

So, fellow students, that's it. These are rules that have helped me. Maybe you already knew them all but then again, maybe there's a new idea in here for you. It's too bad I'm getting ready to graduate just when I'm getting good at this!

Pre-Law Society Created

by Rebecca J. Cisek

Chris Kuehl plans to take this matter to court literally. He is Avila's Pre-Law Coordinator and is working to form a Pre-Law Society as a division of the organization of Politics and Public Administration which will provide students with actual courtroom experience.

The idea for such an organization grew out of the mock trial competition in Des Moines, Iowa that several students attended in late February. Because students desired to participate in mock trials more regularly and because they "need a mechanism to do that," the Pre-Law Society is being organized.

Presently, twelve students have shown interest in the mock trials and the society itself. While six of these students are political science/pre-law majors, the others come from various academic fields.

"Pre-law [at Avila] is growing very slowly and was not really pushed until last year," Mr. Kuehl said. Despite this, Avila has "about the most comprehensive [pre-law] program in the area." He cites sound political science and public administration courses along with a unique Legal Writing and Research course as Avila's strong points.

The legal field in general is not as wide open for job opportunities as it used to be, but some areas are still growing. Criminal and agricultural law have great needs for more professionals, while tax and real estate law are generally filled.

The main advantage to participating in the Pre-law Society, and mock trials specifically, is the opportunity to obtain realistic "information on how the legal system runs," Mr. Kuehl said. He describes law as "largely a game" that depends on factors like strategy, the quality of an attorney, and the way information is presented to win. "It is a rare person that is [never] involved in a court case," Mr. Kuehl said. For this reason, the legal system is

a "bad area to be naive in."

The Pre-law Society is still in the planning stages and will not have official approval as a college organization for several weeks. Funding will come from the legal community and possibly the Student Activity Fee Board

which does not disperse allocated monies until the start of the fall semester. The organization is anticipating sponsoring its own mock trial here in Kansas City during either the summer or fall.

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Foreign Languages Have Potential ... But Lack Support

by Rebecca J. Cisek

What types of courses should a liberal arts education include? To French instructor Sr. Germaine Matter, who has been teaching at Avila for forty years, foreign languages are an essential aspect.

The foreign language courses that fall under the Modern Language Department lack the emphasis afforded to them as recently as five years ago. Sr. Germaine said that the French Department was once a strong force both at Avila and locally, and even received national honors two years in a row. The successes of the students went beyond Avila to acquiring placement in graduate schools, teaching jobs, and high positions in companies. In addition to the job opportunities foreign language study afforded, students were also enriched by the understanding of other cultures. A need for foreign languages is increasing in business. Mrs. Schroeder, a foreign language instructor, recently received a call from the Lee Company regarding courses in Spanish for its employees. In fact, three students in the Basic Spanish I class are working people, one of whom conducts business internationally.

Presently, however, there is little chance for such quality to return to the education in foreign languages at Avila. According to Modern Language Chairperson, Dr. Jane Adelsberger, "How far we can go depends on the number of students." The number of stu-

dents, in turn, depends on the encouragement they receive from their academic advisors. Dr. Adelsberger said some departments assert that they already have too many requirements, so that requiring a foreign language would lengthen a student's college stay. The Bachelor of Science degree--which includes the three main departments of business, education, and nursing--does not specifically require foreign language courses, whereas the Bachelor of Arts degree does. Yet, even here the number of students is reduced because those holding Associate of Art degrees from community colleges have already met all core requirements.

Despite this seemingly bleak picture, foreign languages at Avila do have some strong points. First, five foreign languages--French, Spanish, Italian, German, and Latin--are offered, although most at an elementary level. High quality and dedicated teachers like Sr. Germaine and Spanish instructor Anita Schroeder put the language to use through classroom conversation. Mrs. Schroeder also noted that the students who are enrolled have been "faithful, loyal, and interested" and that small classes offer specialized attention.

Improvements in the foreign language courses are necessary, however. Mrs. Schroeder said a small budget would be helpful in order to buy teaching materials. She also cited the need of repair for the language

lab, which is named after Sr. Germaine and shares space with the computers in the same room; it could accommodate eight students. Sr. Germaine said that Avila has a wealth of educational materials in slides, books, and records that are not used because of facilities in disrepair or because there are so few students to take advantage of them.

Sr. Germaine's French department has practically been dismantled, and she presently must discourage majors because the educational opportunity is not available. Yet, she remains "naively optimistic." "Colleges which dropped language requirements are going back to them," Sr. Germaine pointed out. She can also count on her own dedication to her work, which even includes teaching students in her home when necessary.

Dr. Adelsberger also expressed doubt regarding the future of foreign languages at Avila: "At any point, they can be discontinued." Mrs. Schroeder sees "a very slow progression for Spanish."

A change in societal emphasis from liberal arts to science and business took its toll on Avila's foreign languages. Perhaps a reversing of this trend brought on by the increasing necessity for bilingual people will revive a not too distant memory.

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Chris Kuehl

Professor to Represent U.S. at U.S.-Soviet Forum

by Debbie Amos

Chris Kuehl, a political science Professor at Avila College, was recently honored by being selected to represent the United States in the 1986 Forum for U.S. - Soviet Dialogue. Kuehl was selected from 1500 applicants to be one of the 45 Americans present at the meetings. The Soviet Union will be represented by 45 members also.

The Forum will consist of week-long meetings where the Americans and Soviets can exchange political views and opinions. The 1986 Forum for U.S. - Soviet Dialogue will be held in Denver from May 25-31.

Kuehl has been appointed to the Trade and Technology Committee. He will be meeting with people from Leninrgrad State University and the Novosibirsk Institute for Economic Research.

Kuehl will also participate in an informal panel discussing the role of the small college in the two systems.

Sisters Kick up Heels

The Sisters of St. Joseph are celebrating their 150th anniversary with a musical production, the **119th Street Revue**, on Saturday, May 17, at 8 p.m. in the Goppert Theatre. The production will highlight the accomplishments of the sisters in Kansas City.

Presented by the Avila College Theatre Guild, the musical is being directed by Gerry Kinerk. Several of the sisters will be featured on stage in various segments of the performance. Other performers include alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Avila College.

Ticket prices are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children. \$3 tickets can be obtained for groups of ten or more. A reception will follow the production.

Kansas City's Fun Will Take You by Surprise

by John Baldwin

Kansas City has many free or inexpensive arts and entertainment events scheduled for this summer.

The Johnson County Theatre in the Park in Shawnee Mission, Kansas performs free musicals and plays with persons attending the events bringing their own lawn chairs and blankets for seats. Penn Valley's Theatre Under the Stars is similar to Johnson County's theatre. Its programs are done in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department. Also beginning this year are outdoor performances by the Grandview Theatre in the Park and by the Wyandotte Players on the Kansas City, Kansas, Community College campus.

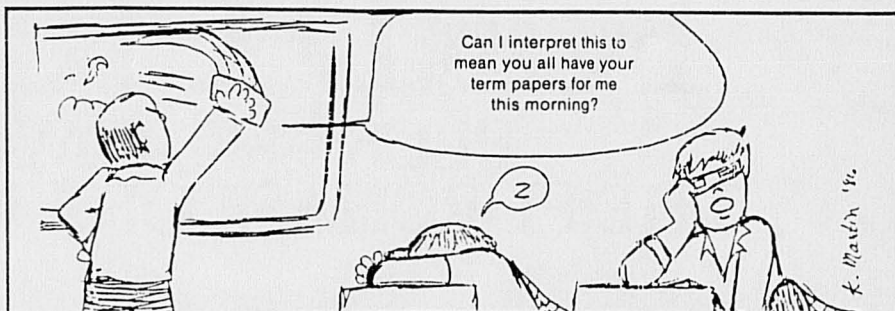
Periodic concerts are performed by the Kan-

sas City Symphony. On Memorial Day, the symphony will perform at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art at 7:30 p.m. The event will be held in honor of Radio Appreciation Day on the front lawn of the museum.

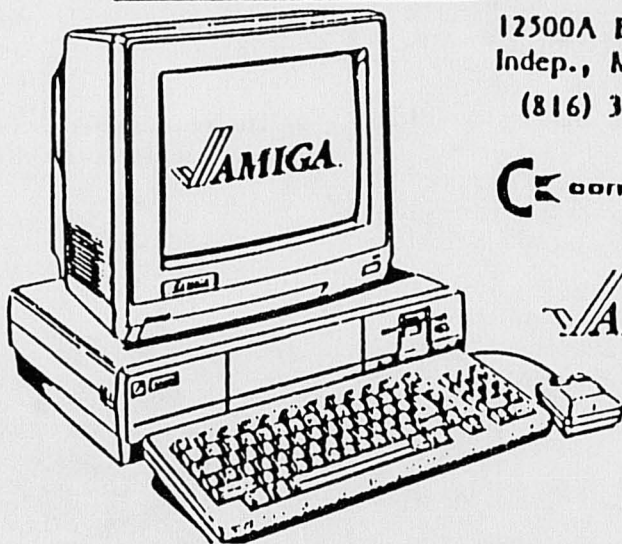
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art is an interesting place in itself. The museum has a wide variety of art and is free to the public on Sundays.

Highlighting Kansas City's summer is the Spirit Festival taking place on the weekend of July 4, 5 and 6 at the Liberty Memorial. The festival will feature entertainment that can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

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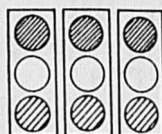
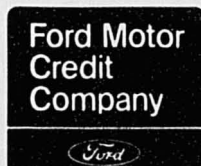
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